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## Structural Analysis of 1 Corinthians via Outline

- I. INTRODUCTION: 1:1-9
  - A. Paul confirms his calling 1:1
  - B. Greetings and call for grace 1:2-3
- II. UNITY IN FAITH AND PURPOSE REQUIRED 2:1-4:41

Paul speaks to division and pride arising in the Corinthian church as it relates to man's wisdom and standards. They were ranking themselves compared to who ministered to them, or who they followed in the faith in regards to men. "I follow Paul" "I follow Apollos" or "Cephas" or "Christ".

  - A. The message came with God's Power, not man's
    - 1. We preach Christ
    - 2. We came in weakness to preach Christ
  - B. Only Christ is the foundation, do not boast 3:1-23
    - 1. Boasting is carnal/sinful 3:1-4
    - 2. The one's who minister are not the focus, God is 3:4-8
  - C. We are stewards and servants of Christ 4:1-21
    - 1. We who have taught you are stewards 4:1-6
    - 2. What you have received was given, why boast? 4:7-8
    - 3. Look at the Apostles example, condemned to die not to be elevated 4:9-17
      - i. Imitate us in humility, not in pride
    - 4. When I come I will sift out men's word versus God's power 4:18-21
      - i. Shall I correct with a rod or in love and gentleness when I come?
- III. MAINTAINING UNITY 5:1-6:20

At the onset Paul addresses sexual immorality that exists that is being boasted about as liberty within the church. He addresses this head on with a call to purge such evil from the assembly of believers.

  - A. Reject and purge evil from the church 5:1-13
    - 1. Evil will exist outside of the church and must be ministered to
    - 2. Evil within the church, purported by those who claim to be saints must be judged
  - B. Solve disputes among believers, avoid sin 6:1-8
    - 1. Believers should be able to judge amongst themselves using God's wisdom
    - 2. It is better to be wronged than take a brother to those outside the church for decision and ruling
    - 3. The real guilt is that believers are actually cheating each other
  - C. Avoid Sexual Immorality 6:9-20
    - 1. The unrighteous will not inherit heaven, you are no longer unrighteous 6:9-12  
You were washed by Christ
    - 2. The body is for service to the Lord, not lustful purposes 6:13-18  
Your bodies are members of Christ  
Do not join Christ with a harlot  
Flee Sexual immorality
    - 3. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit 6:19-20  
You were bought for a price  
Glorify God with your body

- IV. EXHORTATIONS AND TEACHING 7:1-11:1
- A. Concerning marriage 7:1-40
1. A response to questions the Corinthians wrote to Paul about  
"Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me..." (7:1).
  2. Good to not have a wife 7:1-9  
Marry if you are prone to lust or lack self-control  
Do not deprive each other except for prayer and fasting
  3. Do not divorce unbelievers if they are willing to live with you 7:10-16
  4. Remain as you were when called (don't seek separation, etc.) 7:17-24  
If a slave, remain a slave, if freedom can be rightly attained, go ahead
  5. Concerning virgins – do what is right in your heart (marriage or unmarried) 7:25-31
  6. A truth is that focus is divided when married, desiring to please your spouse and God, versus just seeking to please God when single 7:32-38
  7. You may remarry upon a spouse's death, but only other believers 7:39-40
- B. Concerning Christian Liberty 8:1-13
1. Do not cause others to stumble in your liberty
- C. Concerning Ministerial Support 9:1-27
1. In response to those who question Paul's authority and right  
He is an Apostle, He has been with Jesus, Paul planted or helped establish the Corinthians
  2. Do not muzzle the ox while it treads out the grain  
Just as the other Apostles receive support, so too are we allowed 9:3-7
  3. Those who share spiritual things with you may also receive material support  
Scripture supports ministers receiving support from the ministry 9:8-13  
The Lord commands those who preach to live from the Gospel 9:14-14
  4. While eligible, Paul has not taken this privilege 9:15-18
  5. Paul has become a servant to all as an example 9:19-27  
In discipline, he continues on towards an imperishable reward
- D. Concerning Evil 10:1-33
1. Do not lust or seek after evil  
Jewish forefathers failed and are an example to avoid 10:1-6  
Do not become idolaters, do not commit sexual immorality, do not complain.  
Do not be prideful, all of the past failures were recorded as examples to avoid, you have the same temptations, take heed to the warnings 10:7-15  
Do not knowingly partake of food or drink offered to demons 10:16-33  
In order to keep holy and unholy things separated and to keep a clear conscience for yourself and for those who may observe
- V. CHURCH ORDER AND THE PURPOSE OF GIFTS 11:2-14:40
- A. Order of the Church 11:2-16  
In prayer, women are to cover their heads, come together orderly.
- B. Communion 11:17-34  
Communion is not a gluttonous feast as the Corinthians have shamefully made it, with some gorging and others starving. Paul provides a proper instruction for the taking of communion
- C. Spiritual Gifts 12:1-12:31
1. There are multiple gifts but all are of the same Spirit

2. Purpose – service and the profit of all (not self-boasting or glory)
  3. Distribution is from the will of the Spirit
  4. All believers are part of the same body and are to minister their gifts to the benefit of that body.
  5. Not all believers have the same gifts, the plurality of gifts are to serve the church
- D. Faith, hope, love 13:1-13  
Anything, great or small done without love profits nothing. Remember to love in all that you do.
- E. Gifts are for edification of the church, not elevation of the individual, seek those gifts that edify 14:1-40  
Spiritual gifts should be used in an orderly way to serve the church, do not interrupt or talk over one another, serve one another and recognize that God has gifted others as well who also have a part to play in service.  
Paul is mentioning that no one person's gifting outweighs another's and that preference should be given to others in their expression of intelligible gifts, commanding them to stop talking when others begin, so they may themselves listen to what God has shared with the other person as well. This speaks to those who were seeking to take up all of the time for themselves, perhaps their own glory, refusing to let others share, or that would interrupt others to be heard themselves. This is not the expression of love he spoke of earlier, but the selfish and carnal nature already rebuked.
- VI. CHRIST AND THE BELIEVER'S RESURRECTION 15:1-58
- A. Repeating of the Gospel Message and Proofs 15:1-11  
Jesus died and rose again and was seen by many witnesses.
- B. Paul corrects those who claim there is no resurrection 15:12-19  
Paul shares that the entire Christian faith is based both on the resurrection of Christ and the future resurrection of the saints, otherwise there is nothing to look forward to.
- C. Yes, Christ has risen from the dead, and so shall we 15:20-28  
Christ was the first to rise, paving the way, conquering death – destroying the curse laid upon mankind by Adam. Christ was raised first; the believers will be raised next.
- D. Paul reasons further for the resurrection, answering critics 15:29-58  
Paul explains all will be changed, not all may die before Christ's return, but all will have to be changed from corruptible to incorruptible. Christ gives the saints victory over death, and our labor is not in vain.
- VII. CONCLUSION 16:1-24
- A. Preparation of the gift from the Corinthians 16:1-9
1. Set something aside on the first day of each week until he arrives, storing it up for the collection he will gather on his visit
  2. Focus on planned giving now, so it doesn't create an issue on his arrival
- B. Parting Instructions concerning expected visitors 16:10-18
- C. Farewells 16:19-24